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## Norway

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Export Certificate Report

2006

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**Report Highlights:**

As a member of the EEA, Norway applies EU regulations to export certificates. In addition, Norway applies specific sanitary certificate requirements with regard to salmonella for imports of fresh meat, meat preparations and eggs.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>SECTION I. EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY NORWAY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
EEA/Norwegian Adoption of New EU Legislation Expected in Late 2006 .....	4
<b>SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Salmonella Guarantees.....	4
New Methods Approved for Salmonella Testing .....	5
<b>SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Salmonella – Meat/Eggs.....	5
<b>SECTION IV. NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE'S LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
General Requirements Regarding Health Certificates .....	6
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?.....	6
Can the certificate be applied to multiply shipments?.....	6
Will Norway accept a Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration as proof of compliance regarding salmonella occurrence ? .....	7
Will Norway accept a U.S. State issued export certificate? .....	7
Will Norway derogate export certificates? .....	7
<b>SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Approved Establishments in the United States.....	7
<b>APPENDIX I. MODEL CERTIFICATES FOR SALMONELLA GUARANTEES.....</b>	<b>7</b>

## SECTION I. EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY NORWAY

As a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), most Norwegian food legislation, including food safety standards, has been fully harmonized with European Union (EU) legislation. Relevant EU provisions have been completely integrated into Norwegian law in accordance with the EEA framework. Consequently, Norway applies both EU food standards and EU export certificate regulations.

Export certificate requirements set out in specific EU-legislation, including models of the certificates to be used, are applicable for exports to Norway. While Norwegian versions of export certificates are provided in the national legislation, Norwegian authorities do accept the English versions of common EEA/EU models of certificates from U.S. exporters. Hence, U.S. exporters are free to submit export certificates in English or Norwegian -- or both.

Export certificate models for fishery products are not published in Norwegian. As noted above, English models as specified in the EU legislation are accepted.

For a list of EU-required export certificates and the products they cover, please refer to the U.S. Mission to the European Union's GAIN report E35010 at the link below:

<http://www.useu.be/agri/fairs.html>

Like its neighbors Sweden and Finland, Norway also requires salmonella guarantees for imports of fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meat) and eggs. This is in addition to those certificates required by the EU. These products must be accompanied by a "salmonella guarantee" health certificate stating that the product is free from salmonella.

Norway has not yet formally adopted Commission Regulation 1688/2005 as regards the model commercial document for the consignment of meat/eggs. It is expected that Norway will formally adapt Commission Regulation 1688/2005 into Norwegian law in Fall 2006 or at the latest at the beginning of 2007. Currently, Norway applies the "old" EU scheme based on Council Regulations 95/168EF, 95/409, 95/411 and 2003/470. U.S. exporters may use the English versions of the model certificates listed in Commission Regulation 1688/2005. These model certificates are attached in Appendix I.

Table 1. Specific export certificates required by the Norwegian government

Products	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Meat and eggs	Salmonella Guarantee	"No occurrence of salmonella infection disease"	Certificate of conformance	National Food Administration "Mattilsynet"

Unlike some countries outside the EEA-area, Norway/EU does not require the food authorities in exporting countries to certify that products are free from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or BSE. Exporters are expected to comply with EU legislation. For GM products, that means labeling the product as such.

It should be highlighted that Norwegian legislation with respect to genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is more restrictive than EU legislation in the sense that it lays down three additional requirements: GM products should be ethically justified and provide societal benefits as well as be in line with sustainable development. That means that Norway does not automatically allow imports of all GM products that have been granted market approval

by the EU. With regard to BSE, exporters are similarly expected to respect that Norwegian law requires that product be free from BSE.

Norway also applies EU legislation with regard to allowed trace levels of dioxin in food products. Regarding radiation, national Norwegian maximum residue levels are described in the companion FAIRS Report for Norway, NO6003, at the link below:

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/attache\\_lout.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/attache_lout.asp)

Most imports of fresh fruit and vegetables must undergo quality inspections and in certain cases sanitary health inspections. In order to import plant products that require sanitary certificates, it is necessary to be registered as an importer (see NO6003). For example, Norway applies specific regulations related to measures against brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) in potatoes.

Norwegian plant protection rules (Regulation No 1333 from 2000) stipulate that the plant health authority in the exporting country should issue an official plant health certificate in accordance with the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). For travelers, certain exemptions for limited quantities (private consumption) are possible.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Mattilsynet, is the competent authority concerning food imports.

### **EEA/Norwegian Adoption of New EU Legislation Expected in Late 2006**

Previously, Norway had a number of different regulations in place with regard to EEA/EU export certificate requirements. On January 1, 2006, however, one single EU hygiene legislation package (852/2004) entered into force, replacing all previous regulations. This new legislation is expected to reduce the current complexity of the certificate procedure and become the one single source of information on export certificates.

The EU has also finalized work on updating old or, where appropriate, establishing new models of trade and certification documents to accompany consignments. These include declarations and certifications that guarantees have been fulfilled. All relevant model export certificates are included in the hygiene regulation package (Annex VI, Regulation No 854/2004) with the exception of the salmonella guarantees for meat and eggs, frog's legs, gelatine and snails.

Model certificates for those products – primarily meat and eggs – can be found in Commission Regulation 1688/2005.

## **SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES**

### **Salmonella Guarantees**

The stated purpose of the salmonella guarantee - Certificate of Conformance- is to provide consumer protection. In Norway's EEA accession, and Sweden and Finland's EU accessions, these countries received a derogation allowing them to apply stricter salmonella controls than other EEA/EU member countries. This enables these three Nordic countries with historically low salmonella detections to enforce additional salmonella guarantees covering trade in fresh meat from bovines and hogs, including minced meat, fresh poultry meat and

table eggs. All consignments containing fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meats) are subject to salmonella control.

Norway's salmonella regulations do not apply to imports into Norway coming from Sweden and Finland, since these countries have the same salmonella status as Norway. The National Food Administration, Mattilsynet, is the authority responsible for requiring and approving the certificate. Copies of the draft "Model Certificates" for meat and eggs are found in Appendix I of this report. A formal integrated into Norwegian law is expected in Fall 2006. U.S. exporters are recommended to already begin using these export certificate models.

Norwegian importers are themselves responsible for ensuring that fresh meat (i.e., beef, pork and poultry) is tested for salmonella in the country of dispatch. Documentation stating that the meat was tested in accordance with the applicable EU decision, and that no salmonella was detected in the meat, must accompany the consignment. Likewise, importers of eggs for consumption must, as part of the self-inspection, ensure that the consignment is accompanied by certification of salmonella testing before further processing of the eggs. Please note that this does not apply when eggs are delivered to pre-approved establishments and when it can be demonstrated that they are to be used in the manufacture of egg products.

### **New Methods Approved for Salmonella Testing**

The EU Commission has approved new testing methods for salmonella in fresh meat (beef, pork and poultry) imported from another EU country. Commission Decision 2003/470/EG approves alternative analytical methods for salmonella testing from those referred to in Decisions 95/409/EG and 95/411/EG. Importers who wish to use other test methods for salmonella are required to provide documentation to the National Food Administration demonstrating that the method used is valid and in accordance with Decision 2003/470/EC.

## **SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE**

### **Salmonella – Meat/Eggs**

As mentioned above, Norway (as well as Sweden and Finland) applies stricter rules than those of the EU with regard to salmonella (salmonella guarantees). Fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meat) and eggs must be accompanied by a health certificate, salmonella guarantee, stating that the products are free from salmonella. Through the Commission Decision of June 24 2003 (C 1928), Norway is authorized to use certain alternative methods in its microbiological testing of meat.

The specific declaration (attestation) required on the salmonella guarantee certifies that the product to be imported into Norway is in conformance with Norway's strict non-tolerance for salmonella. To date, no specific export certificate format has been published. It is, however, expected that a model certificate established in Commission Regulation 1688/2005 will be adopted in Fall 2006. The draft model certificates can be found in Appendix I.

## SECTION IV. NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE'S LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### General Requirements Regarding Health Certificates

For a complete list of EU-required export certificates and the products they cover, please refer to the U.S. Mission to the European Union's GAIN report E35010 at the following link: <http://www.useu.be/agri/fairs.html>

The original of each commercial document shall consist of a single page, both sides, or, where more text is required it shall be in such a form that all pages needed are part of an integrated whole and indivisible.

If, for reasons of identification of the items of the consignment, additional pages are attached to the document, these pages shall also be considered as forming part of the original of the document by the application of the signature of the responsible person on each of the pages.

When the document, including additional pages, comprises more than one page, each page shall be numbered at the bottom as follows: (page number) of (total number of pages). The top of each additional page shall bear the code number of the document as designated by the responsible authority.

Normally, Norway requires that export certificates are issued in both the language of the country of origin and in Norwegian. For U.S. exporters, however, English versions are deemed satisfactory.

Export certificate models for fishery products have not been published in Norwegian. As noted above, English models as specified in the EU legislation are accepted.

### ***Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?***

Yes. For imports of meat, milk and dairy products, as well as eggs and fish, a health certificate shall accompany the consignment in accordance with the EEA/EU uniform hygiene regulation 854/2004. The original must accompany the consignment until customs clearance takes place in Norway. The original will be retained at the border post. While not required, it is advisable for practical reasons to make two or three copies of the original document. The final receiver, the carrier and probably the producer will each retain a copy of the original.

Similarly, the original salmonella guarantee required for imports of fresh meat, meat preparations or minced meat (with the exception of heat-treated meat) and eggs must accompany these products at the time of entry. In this case, the final receiver must retain the original. The producer must retain one of the copies and the carrier the other. The salmonella guarantee must be issued in at least one original and two copies.

### ***Can the certificate be applied to multiply shipments?***

No. The certificate follows the individual consignment.

***Will Norway accept a Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration as proof of compliance regarding salmonella occurrence ?***

Yes, for meats this is acceptable. However, the certificate for eggs must be issued by the competent authority in the United States.

***Will Norway accept a U.S. State issued export certificate?***

Yes, provided that the State certificate has been drawn up in accordance with the Model Certificates.

***Will Norway derogate export certificates?***

The EU has a bilateral mutual equivalency veterinary trade agreement with the United States to facilitate import procedures. Through its EEA affiliation, imports to Norway are also simplified. However, the above mentioned salmonella-specific certificate requirements must always be respected.

**SECTION V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS****Approved Establishments in the United States**

Foods of animal origin (meat, fish, milk, eggs and products thereof) must come from an EU-approved establishment in the country of origin and be accompanied by a health certificate as described in Section I.

The list of approved U.S. export facilities can be found on the website of the Foreign Agricultural Service's U.S. Mission to the European Union at:

<http://www.useu.be/agri/estab.html>

**APPENDIX I. MODEL CERTIFICATES FOR SALMONELLA GUARANTEES**

See below.

15.10.2005

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 271/25

Model commercial document for the consignment to Finland and Sweden of meat from bovine or porcine animals or meat from poultry,  
including minced meat

<p>1. <b>Consignor</b> (name of despatching establishment and address in full and, if appropriate approval number of the despatching establishment)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>Document reference number</b> <sup>(1)</sup>: .....</p> <p><b>Total number of pages of this document:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Date (on which the material was taken from the premises):</b></p> <p>.....</p>
<p>2. <b>Consignee</b> (receiver's name and address in full and, if appropriate approval number of the establishment of destination of the product)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>3. <b>Place of loading for dispatch</b> (address in full if different from point 1)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>4. <b>Carrier, means of transport, quantity and identification of consignment</b></p> <p>4.1. Carrier (name and address in full):</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>4.2. Lorry, rail-wagon, ship or aircraft <sup>(2)</sup></p> <p>4.3. Registration number(s), ship name or flight number:</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>4.5. Nature of packaging:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>4.6. Number of packages per category of products:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>4.7. Net weight (kg): .....</p> <p>4.8. Container number if applicable:</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>5. <b>Description of the products</b></p> <p>5.1. Type of products <sup>(3)</sup>: .....</p> <p>5.2. Condition of products <sup>(4)</sup>: .....</p>	
<p>6. <b>Declaration by the consignor</b></p> <p>I, the undersigned, declare that:</p> <p>The checks referred to in Commission Regulation [...] have been carried out with negative results and a statement from the laboratory concerning the analyses performed on the consignment or the results of such analyses is attached to this document <sup>(2)</sup>.</p> <p>The meat from bovine or porcine animals, including minced meat thereof, is intended for an establishment for the purposes of pasteurisation, sterilisation or treatment having a similar effect <sup>(2)</sup>.</p> <p>The meat, including minced meat, comes from an establishment that is subject to a control programme recognised as equivalent to that approved for Sweden and Finland <sup>(2)</sup>.</p>	
<p><b>Signature</b></p> <p>Done at ..... on .....</p> <p>(place) (date)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>(signature of the responsible person/consignor) <sup>(5)</sup></p> <p>.....</p> <p>(name, in capital letters)</p>	
<p><b>Notes</b></p> <p><sup>(1)</sup> Reference number issued by the responsible person for purpose of traceability.</p> <p><sup>(2)</sup> Delete as appropriate.</p> <p><sup>(3)</sup> Describe the type of product (e.g. meat from bovine animals, meat from porcine animals, meat from poultry, minced meat).</p> <p><sup>(4)</sup> Describe the condition of product: chilled or frozen.</p> <p><sup>(5)</sup> The signature must be in a different colour to that of the printing.</p>	





L 271/25

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

15.10.2005

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

## Eggs for human consumption dispatched to Finland and Sweden

Part B: Certification	B. Product description									
	EQ Equivalent reference number	EQE Local reference number								
<p><b>Attestation</b></p> <p>I, the undersigned hereby declare that:</p> <p>1. the eggs described herein originate from a flock which has been kept under appropriate conditions in the chain of production as provided for in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003;</p> <p>2. the eggs are intended to be used for the manufacture of processed products by a process that guarantees the destruction of salmonella.</p>										
<p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>1. The number on the label the registration number of the originator in any case the name of the responsible person or organization is known the flight number of the aircraft.</p> <p>2. For the purpose of the EC Regulation, the eggs are to be considered as originating from the country of origin of the eggs.</p> <p>3. The reference No 1831/2003 is the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.</p> <p>4. The eggs are to be used for the manufacture of processed products by a process that guarantees the destruction of salmonella.</p>										
<p><b>Official description as official inspection</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of the producer</td> <td>Country of origin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local marketing name</td> <td>Part of the national code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weight</td> <td>Signature</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batch No.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Name of the producer	Country of origin	Local marketing name	Part of the national code	Weight	Signature	Batch No.	
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